

Message Text

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ORIGIN INR-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-06 IO-03 ADP-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USMISSION GENEVA

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E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: EGEN MX COMECON

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE MEXICAN DISCUSSIONS WITH CEMA

1. DEPARTMENT IS INTERESTED IN RECENT REPORTS THAT MEXICO, AND POSSIBLY OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES INCLUDING COLUMBIA, MAY BE CONSIDERING ESTABLISHING CONTACTS WITH CEMA (COUNCIL FOR MUTUAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE). SO FAR, CUBA, ADMITTED IN 1972, IS THE ONLY LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRY TO DO SO.

2. ACCORDING TO LE MONDE AND PRAVDA OF JUNE 3, THE MEXICAN UNDER SECRETARY OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE ELISIO

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MENDOZA BERRUETO, WHILE IN GENEVA FOR GATT DISCUSSIONS, STATED TO NEWSMEN THAT GOM " IS POSITIVELY INCLINED TOWARD THE IDEA" OF PARTICIPATION IN CEMA AS AN OBSERVER. THE MEXICAN FOREIGN UNDER SECRETARY GALLASTEGUI HAS BEEN IN EAST EUROPE FOR PART OF JUNE TO PARTICIPATE IN SIGNING CULTURAL AGREEMENTS. COINCIDENTALLY, HE WAS IN PRAGUE DURING THE TIME OF THE LAST CEMA SESSION ATTENDED BY KOSYGIN AND OTHER HEADS OF STATE.

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3. WHILE CEMA HAS LITTLE ECONOMIC SUBSTANCE AND IS PRIMARILY AN UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION FOR BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS AMONG ITS MEMBERS, IT HAS RECENTLY BEEN TRYING TO BOLSTER ITS INTERNATIONAL CREDENTIALS BY ATTRACTING INTEREST AMONG THE LDCS. WHATEVER ECONOMIC ADVANTAGE VARIOUS STATES PERCEIVE ACCRUING FROM SOME SORT OF ASSOCIATION WITH CEMA COULD PROBABLY BE ATTAINED BY THE USUAL BILATERAL AGREEMENT.
4. DEPARTMENT WOULD LIKE ANY INFORMATION ADDRESSES HAVE CONCERNING THIS MATTER AND GALLASTEGUI'S TRIP, SPECIFICALLY WITH WHOM DISCUSSIONS, IF ANY, WERE CONDUCTED, DATES, INITIAL REACTION OF GOM AND CEMA, AND WHAT MAY BE MEXICAN MOTIVATIONS. ROGERS

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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To: BELGRADE
BOGOTA
BUCHAREST
BUDAPEST
GENEVA
MEXICO
MOSCOW

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SOFIA
WARSAW

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